

Makemie Park Septic Improvement Grant

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Geography and Demographics

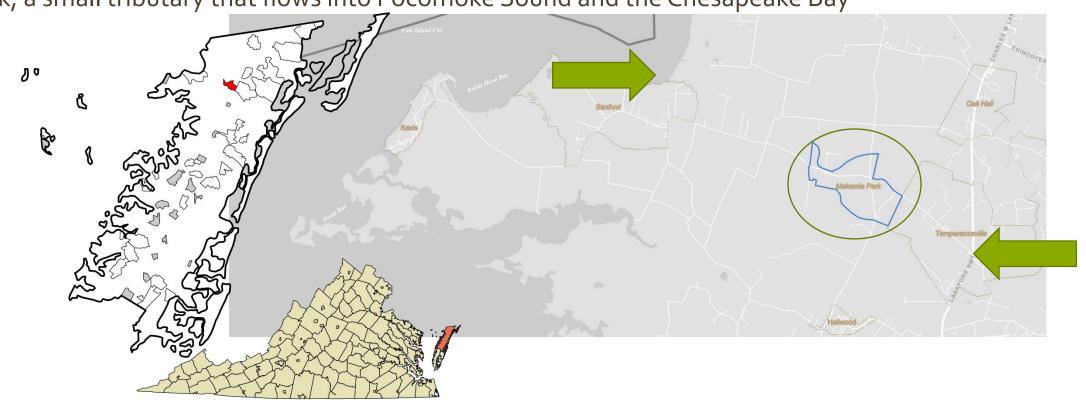
Makemie Park, Eastern Shore of Virginia



Makemie Park -Geography

• Makemie Park is a small Census Designated Community in Accomack County on Virginia's Eastern Shore

• The community is located 2.4 miles west of US Highway 13 and 3.8 miles east of the mouth of Holdens Creek, a small tributary that flows into Pocomoke Sound and the Chesapeake Bay



Makemie Park -Geography

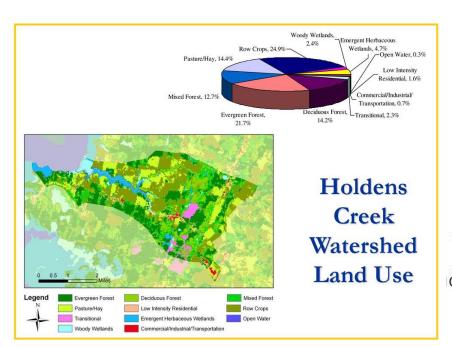
• Makemie Park is a bisected by Saxis Road, running from east to west from Highway 13 to the town of Saxis and Sandy Bottom Branch/Holdens Creek a Chesapeake Bay Tributary running south-east to north-west into Pocomoke Sound

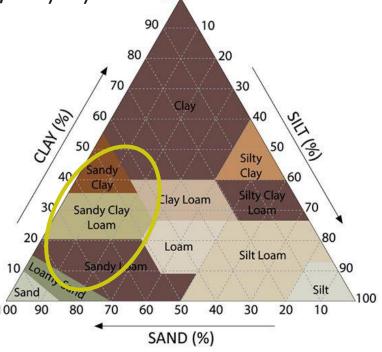


Makemie Park - Geography

• The Holdens Creek Watershed is primarily undeveloped. The limited productive soil and land are dominated by commercial agricultural use.

Soil aeration and quality in the Makemie Park community is not optimal for filtering effluent. Primarily consisting of sandy clay, sandy clay loam and sandy loam soils.







Makemie Park - Demographics

- According to the project's compliance and beneficiary data, of the 19 households, responding to the project survey, total persons served equaled 46.
- 18 of the 19 households and/or 45 of the 46 total persons qualified for DHCD LMI designation, 98% of the total population
- Demographic information also indicated that 7 of the 19 households are female-headed
- 13 of the 19 households are elderly
- 3 of the 19 homes house handicap residents
- All households self-identify as African-American or black.





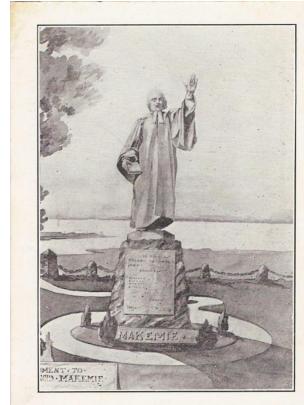


History

Makemie Park, Eastern Shore of Virginia



- The Makemie Park community is named after Reverend Francis Makemie.
- The Reverend Francis Makemie is often regarded as the father of American Presbyterianism, organizing the first American presbytery in 1706, and contributed to the establishment of the principle of religious toleration through a notable court case in New York the following year. He also held property in human beings.
- Makemie later married into a wealthy family in Accomack County on the eastern shore of Virginia, where he acquired substantial land holdings, including what is now Makemie Park, where he is buried. His 1708 will listed and ordered the distribution of thirty-three chattel slaves.



IN MEMORY OF

FRANCIS MAKEMIE

Founder of American Presbyterianism. Erected on the banks of Holden's Creek. Accomack County, Virglnia, by the Presbyterian Historical Society, of Philadelphia, Pa.

UNVEILED THURSDAY, MAY 14TH, 1908



- Underserved communities in Virginia (including former slaves and their descendants) were historically given the least productive agricultural lands.
- There is a correlation between poor soils for agricultural purposes and poor soils for conventional onsite sewage systems (COSS). What Revis and Gregory describe as "wastewater islands" (Onsite Sewage Systems and Environmental Justice in Virginia, VDH 2017).
- These "poor lands" were passed on to future generations, so the future generations inherited increasing wastewater regulatory demands and inequities.



There are a number of environmental, financial, and social factors that can be used to identify disenfranchised individual and communities living in wastewater islands. The Makemie Park Community is a case illustration:

Environmental:

- No access to centralized sewerage.
- Soils not suitable for COSS.
- Sensitive receiving environment (local TMDL, ground water concerns, existing water quality issues).
- Small lot size.
- Older homes and communities.

Financial:

- Low income.
- Difficulty raising funds for initial installation.
- Difficulty paying for ongoing maintenance cost.
- Difficulty obtaining a loan.

Social:

- Historical inequities.
- Lower education regarding environmental/public health issues.



COMMUNITY SEWER



On April 25, Makemie Park Community residents and some helpful neighbors outside the community installed nearly 800 feet of two-inch sewer force main. The self-help project is being spearheaded by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission and coordinated by project manager John Simpkins. Bayside Market of Temperanceville contributed beverages for the workers, and Eastern Shore Tractor of Accomac and Shore Distributors of Onley also pitched in to help.

Makemie Park - History

- Completed between 2002-2005 the Makemie Park Self-Help Sewer Project was a VDHCD CDBG funded effort to provide sewer services to the Makemie Park community.
- The project included an Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation (IPR) set-aside to address 11 homes with no indoor plumbing and several more homes with failing drain field systems.



- In 2010, with 27 households connected, a portion of the treatment system appeared to be failing, requiring repair or replacement.
- Over the past eight years, a total of \$165,000 of grant funds have been generously distributed, primarily with the South East Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP) substantial support for the Makemie Park communal septic system.
- These funds have been spent and exhausted on past repairs, replacements, and maintenance to support the community-maintained system. This support has been integral in keeping the community system, health, well-being of the Makemie Park community from immediate risk.



FINDINGS

The Commissioner finds an imminent danger to public health exists at the community of Makemie Park in Accomack County, Virginia (the community) regarding the health and safety of residents and recreational visitors to Holden's Creek, wherein the community drainage ditch flows and the shellfish waters of the Pocomoke Sound to which Holden's Creek feeds.

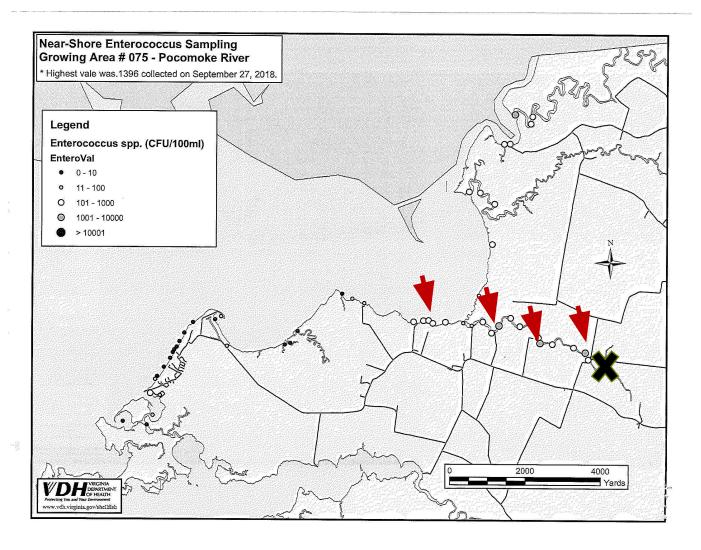
A community onsite sewage system, owned by Makemie Park Neighborhood Association (Ownership), serves Makemie Park, consisting of 26 individual homes and 27 overall properties, originally installed in accordance with *Code of Virginia* § 32.1-164 and the Regulations at 12VAC5-610-240 (Permits; general.). Individual private wells serve the community.



- Despite repeated repairs and annual maintenance, in 2019, VDH issued an Emergency Order Declaring Danger to Public Health to the Makemie Park Community Association, Inc. for the failed community system
- The failed system posed "an imminent danger to public health exists at the community of Makemie Park in Accomack County, Virginia regarding the health and safety of residents and recreational visitors to Holden's Creek, wherein the community drainage ditch flows and the shellfish waters of the Pocomoke Sound to which Holden's Creek feeds."

The community system's drainage ditch is at the headwaters of Holden Creek, which feeds into Pocomoke Sound. Currently, all of Holden's Creek and a portion of Pocomoke Sound are condemned for shellfish harvesting, potentially due in part to the ongoing failure of this sewage system. The failing sewage system presents a threat to groundwater, recreational waters, and shellfish waters.





- 2019 Near-Shore
 Enterococcus Sampling
 by the Virginia
 Department of Health
 revealed elevated levels
 in Holdens Creek and
 the congruent
 shoreline.
- This is a case where a failure of Environmental Justice resulted in a very real, direct public health risk.











Surface Wastewater from Makemie Park Collective Treatment System



MAKEMIE PARK SEPTIC IMPROVEMENT GRANT TIMELINE



PLANNING GRANT...

October 2020



PROJECT SIGN ERECTED

May 2022



BID RELEASED

July 2022

October 2019

EMERGENCY ORDER ISSUED



April 2022

FAIR HOUSING EVENT



June **2022**

DESIGN WORK COMPLETED



September 2022

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS







Construction

Makemie Park, Eastern Shore of Virginia



The project area includes 26 dwellings over a one mile stretch along Saxis Rd. Homes connected to the original communal wastewater treatment system will receive and have installed their own individual alternative onsite sewage system (AOSS) that the homeowner will be responsible for maintaining.





1.	28059 September 20 — 24	1.	28135 September 20 – 24
1.	28139 September 25 - October 1	1.	28109 September 25 - October 1
1.	28092 October 2 – October 8	1.	28087 October 2 – October 8
1.	28099 October 9 – October 15	1.	28075 October 9 – October 15
1.	28067 October 16 – October 22	1.	28051 October 16 – October 22
1.	28039 October 23 – October 29	1.	28014 October 23 – October 29
1.	27549 October 30 – November 5	1.	27541 November 6 -November 12
1.	27454 November 13 -November 19	1.	27428 November 20 -November 26
1.	27418 November 27 -December 3	1.	27304 December 4 -December 10
1.	27322 December 11 -December 17	1.	27301 December 18 -December 24
1.	28025 December 25 - December 31		

Following our September Pre-Construction conference, Boggs and the Makemie Park Team set an ambitious four month schedule to get ahead of the inevitable wet winter weather. Phil's team went immediately to work not only with installation but to establish a positive rapport with the community and project engineers.



Challenges

 Balancing the Special Needs, Challenges, and Priorities of the Community with the Construction Timeline



Approach

 Weekly Call-Ins with Community Leaders, and Door-To-Door Petitioning by Staff and Construction Crew, Close Coordination with Third Party Stakeholders





Challenges

 Coordinating Accomack County's Unique Bi-weekly Pay Schedule with Engineer Review Reports and Invoicing

Approach

 Bogg's and Staff took the lead and established direct lines of contact with the engineer, coordinating site visits with the anticipated construction work and completion



Challenges

 Outreach, Maintenance Training, and Keeping the Community Engaged, Involved, and Informed.



Approach

 In addition to Call-Ins and Door-To-Door Petitioning, Staff and Boggs have Organized Regular Meetings and a Community



Boggs Water and Sewer, Inc.





Phil Dunn and Boggs Water and Sewage have been integral to the success of this effort. Phil's intimate work and connection with the community in tandem with the years of experience he brings from a previous background at the Virginia Department of Health have not only brought quality and know-how to the project but has also fortified the confidence and assuredness of the Makemie Park Community





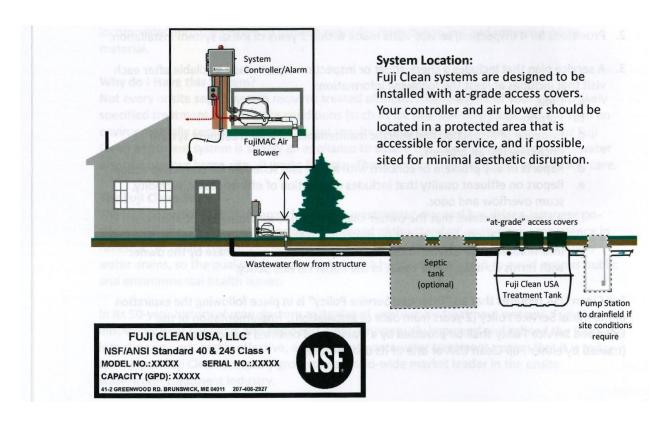


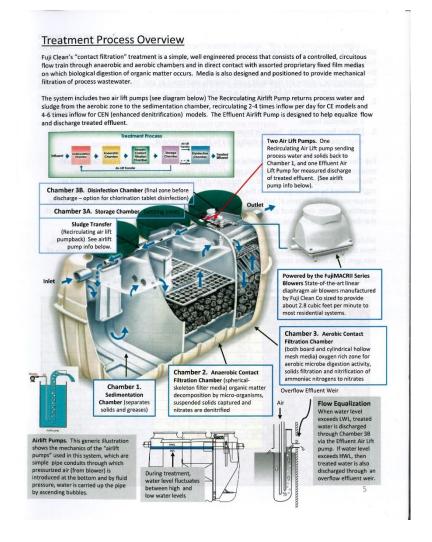








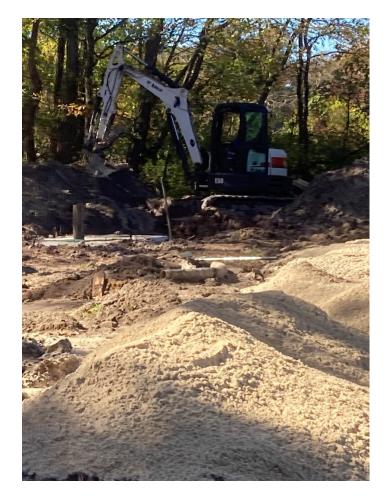






Photography Courtesy of Kathy Bique our beloved DHCD Community Development Specialist









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The End

That's it.

Everyone can go home.

